

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Prior to entry of this response, Claims 1-14 were pending in the application. Claim 5 was withdrawn from consideration. In the Office Action dated July 14, 2003, Claims 1-4 and 6-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, but were deemed allowable if rewritten to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejections. Following this response, Claims 15-42 remain in this application. Applicants hereby address the Examiner's rejections in turn.

I. **Affirmation of Election**

In the Office Action dated July 14, 2003, the Examiner requested affirmation of a provisional election. In response to this, Applicants affirm the desire to provisionally elect to prosecute Species I, Claims 1-4 and 6-14.

II. **Amendment to the Specification**

The specification has been amended, and Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment adds no new matter.

III. **Amendment to the Abstract**

The Abstract has been amended and Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment adds no new matter.

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IV. Objection to the Claims

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to Claim 1 as containing an informality. Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and Applicants respectfully submit that this objection is moot.

V. Rejection of the Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §112, First and Second Paragraphs

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-4 and 6-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs. Claims 1-4 and 6-14 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and Applicants respectfully submit that this objection is moot.

VI. New Claims

Claims 15-42 have been added to more distinctly define the invention to which Applicants are entitled. Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are allowable over the cited art and that they add no new matter.

VII. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. The preceding arguments are based only on the arguments in the Office Action, and therefore do not address patentable aspects of the invention that were not addressed by the Examiner in the Office Action. The claims may include other elements that are not shown, taught, or suggested by the cited art. Accordingly, the

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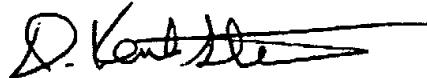
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preceding argument in favor of patentability is advanced without prejudice to other bases of patentability.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: November 6, 2003

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